

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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9 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: MG William F. Burns, USA (Ret)
Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

FROM: MG Larry D. Budge, USA
National Intelligence Officer for
General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Estimates on Conventional Arms Control

Bill:


I have attached two concept papers for Estimates or Interagency Intelligence Memorandums dealing with conventional arms control. The first is the one I mentioned on the phone, the one we call the "Gambit" Estimate.

The second concept paper deals with the Soviet View of the Conventional Balance in Europe. This would be an Interagency Intelligence Memorandum, written in coordination with NIE 11-14-88: Trends and Developments in Warsaw Pact Theater Forces and Doctrine, 1988-2007 which is now in draft. We hope to publish this one in October.

I would very much appreciate any comments/suggestions which you would care to make. In particular we are interested in knowing:

- ° Would these papers be useful to the policy community?
- ° Have we missed anything in terms of Key Questions?

Look forward to seeing you on 20 June.


Larry D. Budge

Attachments:
As Stated

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UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
WASHINGTON

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DIRECTOR

June 27, 1988

Dear Larry:

Thank you for your letter of June 9 and the opportunity to comment on the two concept papers for estimates now being drafted in your office. I think there is no question but that these two papers would be extremely useful to the interagency policy community. We have the following specific comments on the papers: (U)

Likelihood and Implications of a Soviet Conventional Arms Control Gambit.

-- We would find it very useful to have an analysis of current and future Soviet restructuring plans and how they might affect Soviet reduction approaches. (SNF)

-- Given current estimates that the Soviets are restructuring their forces in Europe, what possibilities exist for fitting a conventional arms control gambit in their overall restructuring plans? (SNF)

-- Could the Soviets take significant reductions and restructure their residual forces in such a way that their present combat potential in Europe is maintained (or even increased)? (SNF)

-- In addition, along with analysis of possible Soviet arms control proposals, it would be useful to have an assessment of the extent and kinds of monitoring and verification provisions and measures they might accept or propose in a conventional arms control gambit. (SNF)

Major General Larry D. Budge, USA
National Intelligence Officer for
General Purpose Forces
Central Intelligence Agency

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Soviet View of the Conventional Balance in Europe.

-- In a situation where the Soviets are actively pushing the idea of exchanging data on conventional forces, it will be especially important to have an idea of their view of the conventional balance in Europe, which elements of Western forces they view as most threatening, and thus which elements we can expect them to address in their reductions approach. (SNF)

(U) -- The key questions seem complete and right on target.

Sincerely,



William F. Burns
Major General, U.S. Army (Ret.)

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